

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 FDRE-00 OPR-02 DHA-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SAB-01

SAM-01 SY-05 /103 W

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O P 041301Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1438

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 45

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG. 4: FRANGIE MAY DISMISS KARAME;

FURTHERING PARTITION; MUCH CEASEFIRE TALK; MILITARY ACTION

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CONCENTRATED IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 6778

1. SUMMARY: CABINET MEETING CALLED BY FRANGIE MAY BEGIN DISSOLUTION OF REMNANTS OF EXISTING LEBANESE POLITICAL STRUCTURE. IT WIDELY EXPECTED FRANGIE WILL DISMISS KARAME. KARAME APPEALS TO ARAB LEAGUE FOR SUPPORT AND TO EXPEDITE FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION. RIGHTISTS THREATEN "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF CONFLICT. SECOND TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION BEGINS. TALK OF CEASEFIRES AND H  
CEASEFIRE COMMITTEES UNDER AEGIS OF BOTH SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT AND ARAB LEAGUE. AL DEPUTY KHOLI AND FRANGIE QUARREL ABOUT LIBYAN ROLE. FIGHTING INTENSE ALONG BEIRUT CONFRONTATION LINE, ESPECIALLY AT ASHRAFIEH. SIGNS OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AT SOFAR. OTHER AREAS QUIET. IMPROVED POLICE SECURITY IN WEST BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. CABINET MEETING. PRESIDENT FRANGIE CALLED CABINET MEETING FOR 1000 LOCAL AUGUST 4. UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER SUFFICIENT QUORUM WILL PERMIT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE, OR WHAT MIGHT REALLY BE DISCUSSED IF IT DOES. FORMAL AGENDA REFERS TO QUESTIONS ON REESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. KARAME HAS SAID WOULD NOT ATTEND, BUT OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY THINKS HE MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND ON MEETING AT ANOTHER TIME IF HE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE ON AGENDA. ALL BEIRUT PAPERS AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES SPECULATE THAT FRANGIE'S PURPOSE IS REALLY TO FIND EXCUSE TO DISMISS KARAME, REPLACING HIM WITH EITHER SULEIMAN AL-ALI, SUNNI DEPUTY FROM AKKAR, OR FARID SOLH, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. PIERRE GEMAYEL WELCOMED MEETING AS "POSITIVE STEP WHICH MIGHT BE A NATURAL AND LOGICAL PRELUDE TO A LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOG." IF ALI AND SOLH REFUSE PREMIERSHIP, SPECULATION IS THAT FRANGIE MIGHT APPOINT CHAMOUN HIMSELF. THIS WOULD BE MAJOR STEP TOWARD DE FACTO PARTITION OF REMNANTS OF FORMER LEBANESE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. KFOUR REMNANT MIGHT THEN  
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SEEK "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF CRISIS.

3. KARAME ATTITUDE. PREMIER KARAME SAYS FRANGIE'S CALLING OF MEETING IS "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT, CONCEALING GRAVE OBJECTIVES." HE NOTES THAT CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR PREMIER TO PREPARE AGENDAS OF SUCH MEETINGS. KARAME ACCUSES FRANGIE OF ABUSE OF POWERS OF OFFICE, AND HAS APPEALED TO ARAB LEAGUE

SECRETARY GENERAL TO PERSUADE FRANGIE TO RESIGN IMMEDIATELY AS "THE SOLE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS." NO INDICATION OF WHAT KARAME MIGHT DO IF AND WHEN FRANGIE DOES DISMISS HIM.

4. TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION. SECOND ICRC CONVOY TO TELL ZAATAR DEPARTED WEST BEIRUT 1000 LOCAL AUGUST 4. AS OF 1200 NOON LOCAL, PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN.

5. SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE. PLO DELEGATION RETURNED TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 3 TO CONSIDER MODALITIES OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. LEFTIST PRESS WN BEIRUT PUTS BEST LIGHT ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, NOTING THAT SYRIAN GOVT RELEASED 70 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS UPON ARRIVAL OF DELEGATION, IN ADDITION TO 90 RELEASED LAST WEEK WHEN ACCORD WAS SIGNED. L'ORIENT REPORTS THAT SYRIAN MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF JAMIL CHAYA, BAATH PARTY LEADER; AND COL. MOHAMMED AL-KHOLI, WHO RECENTLY HAS BEEN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S LIAISON WITH KFOUR FRONT. KARIM PAKRADOUNI, PHALANGE POLITICAL BUREAU CHIEF, MAY REPRESENT LEBANESE RIGHT. PAKARADOUNI AND DANY CHAMOUN PRESENTLY IN DAMASCUS.

6. ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS. AT SAME TIME AS CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE APPARENTLY BEING FORMED IN DAMASCUS, ARAB LEAGUE NEGOTIATOR KHOLI IN BEIRUT IS WORKING ON LOCAL CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS, NOW, HE SAYS, TO TAKE EFFECT WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS. NEW POLITICAL COUNCIL OF JUNBLATTI NATIONAL MOVEMENT ANNOUNCED IT HAS ITS OWN FOUR MEMBER COMMITTEE WHICH HAS SIGNED "CEASEFIRE NUMBER 3" AGREEMENT WITH ARAB LEAGUE, BUT NOTING CERTAIN RESERVATIONS. L'ORIENT SAYS KFOUR CONFIDENTIAL

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FRONT MAY SIGN AGREEMENT AUGUST 4, WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS. KHOLI MAY VISIT DAMASCUS HIMSELF IN NEXT TWO DAYS.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1439

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 46

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6797

7. LIBYAN ROLE. AL DEPUTY KHOLI ALSO MET AUGUST 3 WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE IN WHAT BOTH LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST SOURCES DESCRIBE AS ACRIMONIOUS MEETING. PRINCIPAL, BUT NMT ONLY, QUARREL WAS ON QUESTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLEGED LIBYAN AL FORCE SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS IN JEZZINE AREA. KHOLI INSISTED THAT ALL ARAB LEAGUE FORCES IN LEBANON, INCLUDING LIBYANS, OPERATE UNDER COMMAND OF AL MILITARY COMMANDER, GENERAL GHONEIM, AND HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN FIGHTING. RADIO AMCHIT EARLY AUGUST 4 ADDED TO RIGHTIST CHARGES WITH REPORT THAT LIBYANS SENT THREE TRUCKLOADS OF MILITARY

EQUIPMENT TO PALESTINIANS IN METN AREA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNMARKED LIBYAN TRACKED VEHICLES MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN USED ON PALESTINIAN SIDE IN JEZZINE AREA, BUT IT UNCLEAR WHETHER USED BY LIBYAN OR PALESTINIAN (OR LEBANESE) TROOPS. LEFTIST PRESS SPECULATES THAT KFOUR FRONT MAY REFUSE TO GO ALONG WITH ANY CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS UNLESS LIBYAN FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM ARAB LEAGUE.

8. MILITARY SITUATION, BEIRUT AREA. HEAVIEST FIGHTING NIGHT OF AUGUST 3-4 APPARENTLY IN CENTRAL BEIRUT AREA, PARTICULARLY AT ASHRAFIEH, WHERE FIGHTING APPARENTLY ERUPTED LOCALLY WITHOUT DIRECTION FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. AL-MUHARRIR REPORTS LEFTIST PATROL PENETRATING AREA. FIGHTING AT TELL ZAATAR (AFTER RED CROSS DEPARTURE). RIGHTISTS FIRED ARTILLERY INTO NABAA AREA FROM DIKWANEH, DAWRA AND SYOUFI. LEFTISTS CLAIM THAT "ARMENIAN PROGRESSIVES" AT BADAQUI WERE SURROUNDED BY PHALANGISTS AND NATIONAL LIBERALS AND OVERRUN, WITH TWO ARMENIAN COMMUNISTS AND EIGHT SYRIAN WORKERS KILLED AND MUTILATED. LEFTISTS ACCUSE ARMENIAN TACHNAG PARTY OF DELIBERATELY IGNORING CHRISTIAN ATROCITIES IN AREA.

9. OPERATION IN CENTRAL MOUNTAINS. L'ORIENT REPORTS EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS THAT SYRIAN UNITS HAVE BEGUN TO WITHDRAW FROM SOFAR AREA. SYRIAN-DOMINATED "VANGUARDS" OF "LIBANESE ARAB ARMY" REPORTEDLY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR CONTROL POST FROM ABLAH TO SYRIAN-LEBANESE BORDER AT MASNAH. ELSEWHERE IN MOUNTAINS, ARTILLERY FIRE BETWEEN SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS AND BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS CONTINUES.

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10. OTHER AREAS. JEZZINE AREA FAIRLY QUIET. RIGHTIST RADIO REPORTS SYRIAN UNITS IN AREA CONSOLIDATING POSITIONS AND THAT NEW SYRIAN UNIT, UNSPECIFIED, HAS ARRIVED IN AREA. IN NORTH, ATTACKS BY FIRE BUT NO GROUND MOVEMENT.

11. WEST BEIRUT SECURITY. KIDNAPPING WAVE IN WEST BEIRUT MAY NOW BE PAST. LARGE MIXED MOTORIZED PATROLS OF NASSERIST MILITIA, LEBANESE ARAB ARMY AND PALESTINIANS NOW REGULARLY PATROLLING AREA. NOTHING FURTHER ON MISSING ASSISTANT COOK KIDNAPPED FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR'S APARTMENT. EMBASSY LOCAL STAFF, PARTICULARLY MARONITES, CONTINUE APPREHENSIVE

ABOUT SECURITY.  
HUNT

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## Message Attributes

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